**Virginia Bass Chapter Federation**

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes June 23, 2019

**Board Members**

President Brian Briemeister - absent

Vice President. Scott Whitmore

Region 1 Director Steve Hajdasz

Region 3 Director Vacant

Region 4 Director Chuck Hart

Region 5 Director Vacant

Region 6 Director James Vick

Region 7 Director Wayne Hayes - absent

Region 8 Director John Flicek

Region 10 Director Miller Castle - absent

Tournament Director Alton Vaughn

Assistant Tournament Director Becky Conley

Youth Director Vacant

Conservation Director John Flicek

State Chaplin Vacant

Secretary Tammy Caldwell

Treasurer Stephanie Brewer

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 am following the executive session by the Vice President. The Board observed a moment of silence for the safety of our active duty military and law enforcement along with remembrance of anyone that has passed.

## Meeting Minutes

The Secretary distributed meeting minutes from the March 17, 2019 Board meeting. A motion was made by Region 4 to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Region 1. The board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

## Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the current financial report to the Board for approval. A motion was made by Region 6 to approve the report and seconded by Region 8. The Treasurer also reported there are three outstanding checks that have not been cashed from this year's tournaments. The treasurer asked the Region Directors to contact the affected individuals and have them cash/deposit the checks. The topic of unpaid TBF invoices was discussed and Scott agreed to contact Tonya at TBF to get direction on how to cancel/terminate the invoices as the folks that the invoices were for decided not to join. Vice President

thanked the board for their hard work getting new sponsorships/advertisements so far in 2019. He also encouraged the board to continue looking for additional sponsorships/advertisements as this will go a long way in running the state as we move into our new tournament format so we can continue to have a 100% payback to the fishermen.

**Conservation Report**

The Conservation Director reported that Chuck provided him with Creel Surveys from Region 4's SML tournament, if anyone needs Creel Surveys let John know and he will get you some, they can also be found on Region 8 website: www.vabassregion8.com. Creel Surveys presently include Tidal Rivers (James, Chickahominy, Pamunkey, Mattaponi, & Rappahannock), Kerr Lake, and Smith Mountain Lake. If your Region or Clubs fish these waters please complete the surveys.  Next step of the Creel Surveys is to hopefully add other locations to the automated app.

Currently Region 8 is testing the App on the Chickahominy and Pamunkey Rivers. John has spoken to VT about the eelgrass restoration project, partnerships and potential funding avenues. VT representative indicated they needed to discuss our participation with other project partners. VT to date has not provided the project information requested for us to start the application process for a grant.  John will discuss with Aaron Bunch the lead DGIF tidal water biologist about working independently with them on an eelgrass restoration project on the Chickahominy River. Reminder to all Federation members to not throw your dead fish back in the water at tournament sites. Prior to your tournaments have a plan on how you will handle and dispose of any dead fish. There is normally someone around that would love to have the fish to eat. Leaving dead fish behind sends the wrong message/image about tournament fishermen. We as tournament fishermen do not need negative press about our sport. With social media today a fish kill at one of our sites is sure to hit the main stream media if left behind.

**Youth Report**

Scott thanked James Vick for hosting a youth tournament on the James River. There were two youth tournaments offered prior to the youth State Championship that was held June 1 on the Chickahominy River. We had two teams show up for this year's State Championship. The Team of Aydin Knapp and Justin Humphrey came out on top with 13.57 pound earning them a berth in the Junior World Championship in the North Little Rock Arkansas in August. Aiden Kerlin weighed in the big fish of the tournament at 4.41pounds. Holly Keisel donated trophies for this event and Dylan Whitmore donated a TBF Casting Rod for the big fish prize. Scott and John put together goody bags for each angler along with Region 8 and Bass Pro Shop providing each angler with Rod and Reel Combos. There was nothing but positive comment from the parents on how well the event was run. We currently have four tournament dates set aside for the remainder of 2019 for the youth to fish and they can be seen in the latest edition of Tightlines. At the August board meeting will work to set aside dates for youth tournament possibilities across the state. John is working on a point system for 2020 to determine who will go to the state championship. Youth Anglers will need to join a youth club in order to be eligible to fish, right now everyone is being put in Greenhorn Jr. Anglers. If Region Directors have tournaments that they can host the youth, get that information to John and he will get it in Tightlines and Tammy will get it out on Facebook.

Once we have youth tournaments set will get them all posted on the Youth Facebook page and in Tightlines. We will have a packet and display advertising the new Youth Tournament format at the 2020 Richmond Fishing Expo. Scott and John will work on a packet that will be sent to youth anglers interested in fishing tournaments with information they need to know.

## Safety Committee Report

Just a reminder to be safe out on the water, there have been a lot of reports of people falling overboard and boat accidents in recent weeks resulting in deaths. Watch out for other boaters while on the water, always be on the defensive while operating a watercraft. life vest will now be called floatation devices and will be based on weight and size, the old ones are still good until they become unserviceable.

# Old Business:

## New State Tournament Format

The new state tournament trail starts with the fall tournament October 19 on the Potomac. We will set the remainder of the 2020 tournament schedule at the August 18th Board meeting and reserve facilities as required. Directors will bring their proposals to the August Board meeting.

## 2019 Business Calendar

The board reviewed the Calendar and we are on track for all entries. The Board thanked the Treasurer for you great efforts getting our taxes done and turned in along with working with the Department of Agriculture acquiring our annual license.

## 2019 Budget Approval

The Vice President presented a thorough review of the remaining budgeted expenses for 2019 and the remaining expenses were accepted by the board.

# New Business:

## Sponsor Review

The Vice President updated our new sponsors for 2019: Fishing Pro Tech, Hooker Bait and Tackle, Duncan Ford, CIR Italian Restaurant, Surfside Bait and Tackle and Liberty Roofing. We had a good amount of product come in this year but need to increase that in 2020 to provide more product back to the fishermen. He encouraged the board to find a Battery Sponsor for the upcoming season. He reviewed the current list of sponsors to ensure the list is up to date and to remove those that are no longer sponsors.

He stated that we need to have face to face meetings with sponsors that we did not collect from in 2019 to get them back on board for 2020. We will be sending out solicitation letters in October/November timeframe so the perspective Sponsors can get us in their budgets for the coming year.

**Junior World Championship Competitors**

Aidan Knapp and Justin Humphries will be representing Virginia at the Junior World Championship. The board voted to provide each Competitor with some funding to help offset the cost of Travel to the JWC in Arkansas.

## National Semi Finals

Held at Stonewall Jackson Lake, WVA. The Host Hotel for this event is the Quality Inn (304·269·7000) located in Weston, WV. There are numerous hotels in the Weston area. The Registration meeting will be held September 13th from 4·Spm at the Stonewall Resort. Rules and pairings meeting will start at 5:15pm. The Stonewall Resort will also provide the Tournament site and ramp.

Region Directors need to let Scott know by July 20 who is going to fish the NSF. Everyone pays their own entry fee for the tournament and the state will reimburse the entry fees for the ones who qualified through the state tournaments after the anglers have competed at the NSF. Once the list is finalized the Board will evaluate to determine if there is sufficient funding to partially reimburse club qualifiers.

**Financial Committee** - **New State Tournament Format**

John handed out the payout schedule along with a presentation on the payout, showing a 100% payout with the new tournament format. The board agreed on the 86% payout with 14% being held back for state championship.

Designated Virginia State Champions will get a designated championship package to be determined. Winners of each one of the four qualifiers will get free entry into state championship, a discounted entry fee will be given to teams that fished more than one region event.

## Bylaws Committee - New State Tournament Format

Chuck Hart, Steve Hajdasz and Wayne Hayes revised the bylaws for the new tournament format. The board reviewed all the changes of the bylaws and made the necessary corrections.

Roll call to accept the changes to the bylaws once the secretary types them up. Region 1-yes, Region 4 - yes, Region 6 -yes, Region 7 - absent, Region 8 - yes, Region 10 - absent, Vice President -yes

**Raffle Drawing**

A member from Region 10 was the winner of the $1,000 Bass Pro Shop Gift Card. Thanks to everyone who worked hard to sell the tickets as we sold approximately 90% of our tickets

## Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM. The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2019.